Kepodactylus

Kepodactylus is an extinct genus of pterodactyloid pterosaur from the Kimmeridgian-Tithonian-age Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation of Colorado, United States.

In 1992, a team from the Denver Museum of Natural History dug up a specimen of the dinosaur *Stegosaurus stenops* in Garden Park, Colorado. In the quarry they also found smaller disarticulated bones from other animals, among which were those of a pterosaur new to science.

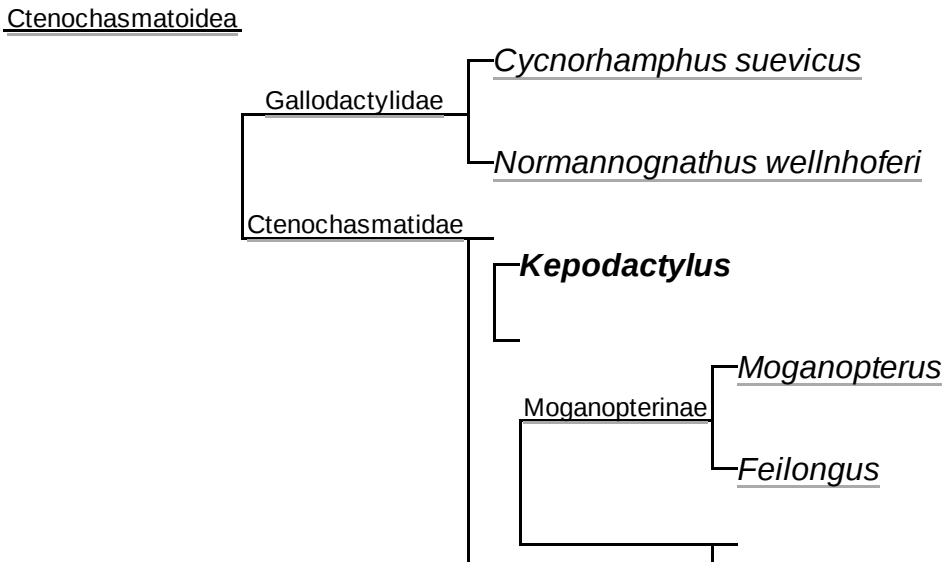
In 1996, Jerald Harris and Kenneth Carpenter named the new genus. The type species is *Kepodactylus insperatus*. The genus name is derived from Greek, *kepos*, "garden", a reference to Garden Park and *daktylos*, "finger", referring to the typical wing finger of pterosaurs. The specific name means "unhoped-for" in Latin, alluding to the fact that the researchers hoped to find a dinosaur, and did not expect a pterosaur.

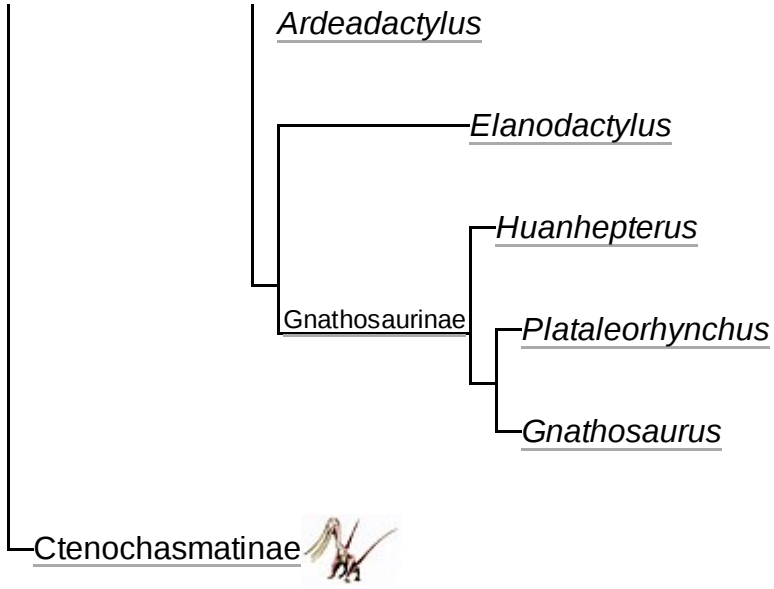
The genus is based on the holotype DMNH 21684, consisting of a cervical vertebra, humerus, several finger bones, and a metatarsal. *Kepodactylus* was similar to *Mesadactylus* but larger (wingspan around 2.5 m [8.2 ft]), and with additional pneumatic foramina (holes to allow air from air sacks to enter the bones) in the vertebrae and humerus. The describers concluded that the species was a member of the Pterodactyloidea and within this group, using the phylogeny of David Unwin, a member of a clade that is now known as Lophocratia.[1] It was regarded as a potentially valid genus in the most recent review of Morrison pterosaurs.[2]

Kepodactylus	
Temporal range: Late Jurassic	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Order:	†Pterosauria
Suborder:	†Pterodactyloidea
Family:	†Ctenochasmatidae
Genus:	†*Kepodactylus* Harris & Carpenter, 1996
Species:	†***K. insperatus***
Binomial name	
†***Kepodactylus insperatus*** Harris & Carpenter, 1996	

Classification

Cladogram following the latest version of Andres' data set, published by Longrich, Martill, and Andres in 2018:[3]





See also

- List of pterosaur genera
- Timeline of pterosaur research

References

1. Harris, J.D., and Carpenter, K. (1996). A large pterodactyloid from the Morrison Formation (Late Jurassic) of Garden Park, Colorado. *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie Monatshefte* 1996(8):473-484.
2. King, L.R., Foster, J.R., and Scheetz, R.D. (2006). New pterosaur specimens from the Morrison Formation and a summary of the Late Jurassic pterosaur record of the Rocky Mountain region. In: Foster, J.R., and Lucas, S.G. (eds.). *Paleontology and Geology of the Upper Morrison Formation*. New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin 36:149-161. ISSN 1524-4156.
3. Longrich, N.R.; Martill, D.M.; Andres, B. (2018). "Late Maastrichtian pterosaurs from North Africa and mass extinction of Pterosauria at the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary" (http://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.2001663). *PLoS Biology*. **16** (3): e2001663. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.2001663 (https://doi.org/10.1371%2Fjournal.pbio.2001663). PMC 5849296 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5849296). PMID 29534059 (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29534059).

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